

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application and under consideration. Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 17, and 18 are amended herein. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the claims as originally filed, and from page 14, line 4 to page 15, line 5 of the specification. This amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance, and entry therefore is respectfully requested. In the alternative, entry of this amendment is requested as placing the application in better condition for appeal by, at least, reducing the number of issues outstanding. Further reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Response to Arguments:

The Applicants appreciate the consideration given to their arguments. The Applicants, however, are disappointed that their arguments were not found to be persuasive. The final Office Action asserts in the first full paragraph at page 3, in the section entitled Response to Arguments, that:

Again "the time of reception of a predetermined notification" as recited in the limitation is the start time of the program in Logan itself.

Claims 1, 9, and 17 have consequently been amended to recite, for example, "at the time of receiving a predetermined notification according to an operation of a viewer," which is not shown in any of the cited references. Further reconsideration is thus requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,931,657 to Marsh et al. (hereinafter "Marsh"). The rejection is traversed to the extent it would apply to the claims as amended. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1, 9, and 17 recite substantially:

Obtaining character information related to the received program from contents of the received program while being received by a program receiving unit.

Retaining the character information obtained by said information obtaining unit in a way that is overwritten on the oldest retained character information.

And searching:

For the program information of the program related to the received program on the basis of character information at the time of receiving a predetermined

notification according to an operation of a viewer in the character information retained by said information retaining unit.

Marsh neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "obtaining character information related to the received program from contents of the received program while being received by a program receiving unit," "retaining the character information obtained by said information obtaining unit in a way that is overwritten on the oldest retained character information," and searching "for the program information of the program related to the received program on the basis of character information at the time of receiving a predetermined notification according to an operation of a viewer in the character information retained by said information retaining unit," as recited substantially in claims 1, 9, and 17. In Marsh, rather, intelligent content agent 108 monitors information in EPG database 112 for future programs having something to do with Ms. Roberts, as described at column 5, lines 31, 32, and 33. Claims 1, 9, and 17 are submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 9, and 17 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 18, and 19 depend from claim 1, claim 9, or claim 17 and add further distinguishing elements. Claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 18, and 19 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 18, and 19 is also earnestly solicited.

Claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 17, and 20:

Claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,751,401 to Arai et al. (hereinafter "Arai"). The rejection is traversed to the extent it would apply to the claims as amended. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Arai neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "obtaining character information related to the received program from contents of the received program while being received by a program receiving unit," "retaining the character information obtained by said information obtaining unit in a way that is overwritten on the oldest retained character information," and searching "for the program information of the program related to the received program on the basis of character information at the time of receiving a predetermined notification according to an operation of a viewer in the character information retained by said information retaining unit," as recited substantially in claims 1, 9, and 17. In Arai, rather, an EPG processing section 23 produces a program table based on decoded program information, as described at column 13, lines 13, 14, and 15. Claims 1, 9, and 17 are submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 9, and 17 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 4, 12, and 20 depend from claim 1, claim 9, or claim 17 and add further distinguishing elements. Claims 4, 12, and 20 are thus also submitted to be allowable.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 12, and 20 is also earnestly solicited.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21:

Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0120925 to Logan et al. (hereinafter "Logan"). The rejection is traversed to the extent it would apply to the claims as amended. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Logan neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "obtaining character information related to the received program from contents of the received program while being received by a program receiving unit," "retaining the character information obtained by said information obtaining unit in a way that is overwritten on the oldest retained character information," and searching "for the program information of the program related to the received program on the basis of character information at the time of receiving a predetermined notification according to an operation of a viewer in the character information retained by said information retaining unit," as recited substantially in claims 1, 9, and 17. In Logan, rather, individual segments of an incoming broadcast stream are identified and processed or stored for future use in a storage unit 145, as described at paragraph [0051]. Claims 1, 9, and 17 are submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 9, and 17 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 5, 13, and 21 depend from claim 1, claim 9, or claim 17 and add further distinguishing elements. Claims 5, 13, and 21 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 13, and 21 is also earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan in view of Arai and Chaal (hereinafter "Chaal"). The rejection is traversed to the extent it would apply to the claims as amended. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claims 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, and 24 depend from claim 1, claim 9, or claim 17 and add further distinguishing elements. Neither Logan nor Arai teach, disclose, or suggest "obtaining character information related to the received program from contents of the received program while being received by a program receiving unit," "retaining the character information obtained by said information obtaining unit in a way that is overwritten on the oldest retained character information," and searching "for the program information of the program related to the received program on the basis of character information at the time of receiving a predetermined notification according to an operation of a viewer in the character information retained by said

information retaining unit," as discussed above with respect to the rejections of claims 1, 9, and 17. Chaal does not either, and thus cannot make up for the deficiencies of either Logan or Arai with respect to any of claims 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, and 24. Claims 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, and 24 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, and 24 is also earnestly solicited.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, in view of the reasons given above, it is submitted that all of claims 1-24 are allowable over the cited references. Allowance of all claims 1-24 and of this entire application is therefore respectfully requested.

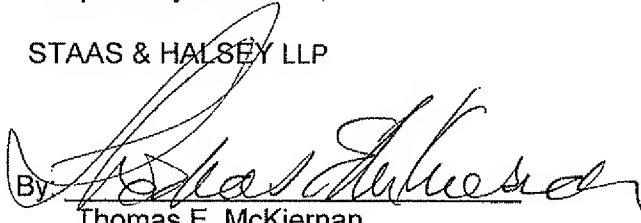
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 11/2/07

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